Walker Water Association

2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand, and be involved in, the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

Where Does Our Drinking Water Come From?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water source is one well that pumps from the Sparta Sands Aquifer. We also purchase treated water from Magnolia Water System whose sources of water are Lake Columbia and four wells that pump from the Sparta Aquifer. Water from Well #10, 11, and 12 is treated at each well site and pumped to Station 3 for distribution. Water from Well #8 is treated at the well site. Water from Lake Columbia is treated at Magnolia's Surface Water Treatment Plant.

How Safe Is The Source Of Our Drinking Water?

The Arkansas Department of Health has completed Source Water Vulnerability Assessments for Walker Water Association and Magnolia Water System. The assessments summarize the potential for contamination of our sources of drinking water and can be used as a basis for developing source water protection plans. Based on the various criteria of the assessments, our water sources have been determined to have a low to medium susceptibility to contamination. You may request summaries of the assessments from our office.

What Contaminants Can Be In Our Drinking Water?

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to assure tap water is safe to drink, EPA has regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Am I at Risk?

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. However, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from small amounts of contamination. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. In addition, EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbiological contaminants are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Lead and Drinking Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

How Can I Learn More About Our Drinking Water?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Michael L. Story, Operator, at 870-299-0283. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Monday of March, June, September, and December at 6:00 PM at the Water Office.

TEST RESULTS

We and Magnolia Water System routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The test results table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2014. In the table you might find terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – unenforceable public health goal; the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA – not applicable

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – a unit of measurement for the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Parts per billion (ppb) - a unit of measurement for detected levels of contaminants in drinking water. One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm) – a unit of measurement for detected levels of contaminants in drinking water. One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria (Walker Water Assn)	**Y**	**2 positive samples in September**	Present	0	**1 positive sample per month**	Naturally present in the environment

- **Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.**

TURBIDITY

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Turbidity (Magnolia Water System)	N	Highest yearly sample result: .28	NTU	NA	Any measurement in excess of 1 NTU constitutes a violation	Soil runoff
		Lowest monthly % of samples meeting the turbidity limit: 100%			A value less than 95% of samples meeting the limit of 0.3 NTU, constitutes a violation	

- Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water. Magnolia Water System monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of their filtration system.

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Levels Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Nitrate [as Nitrogen] (Magnolia Water System)	N	Average: 0.11 Range: 0 – 0.18	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

LEAD AND COPPER TAP MONITORING

Contaminant	Number of Sites over Action Level	90th Percentile Result	Unit	Action Level	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead (Walker Water Assn)	0	<0.003	ppm	**0.015**	Corrosion from household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (Walker Water Assn)	0	<0.20	ppm	1.3	

- We are currently on a reduced monitoring schedule and required to sample once every three years for lead and copper at the customers' taps. The results above are from our last monitoring period in 2014. Our next required monitoring period is in 2017.

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON

- The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was routinely monitored by Magnolia Water System in 2014, and all TOC removal requirements set by USEPA were met. TOC has no health effects. However, Total Organic Carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These by-products include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs).

REGULATED DISINFECTANTS						
Disinfectant	**Violation Y/N**	**Level Detected**	**Unit**	**MRDLG** (Public Health Goal)	**MRDL** (Allowable Level)	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Chlorine (Walker Water Assn)	N	Average: 0.92 Range: 0.4 – 1.8	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

BY-PRODUCTS OF DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION					
Contaminant	**Violation Y/N**	**Level Detected**	**Unit**	**MCLG** (Public Health Goal)	**MCL** (Allowable Level)
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (Walker Water Assn)	N	Average: 24 Range: 2.5 – **60.9**	ppb	0	**60**
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (Walker Water Assn)	N	Average: 30 Range: 2.2 – 51.4	ppb	NA	80
Chlorite (Magnolia Water System)	N	Average: 278 Range: 53 - 449	ppb	800	1000

♦ **While only the upper end of the range of the Haloacetic Acids exceeded the MCL, it should be noted that some people who drink water containing Haloacetic Acids over the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.**

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS				
Contaminant	**Level Detected**	**Unit**	**MCLG** (Public Health Goal)	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Chloroform (Magnolia Water System)	Average: 29.3 Range: 18.2 – 43.5	ppb	70	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane (Magnolia Water System)	Average: 17.7 Range: 13.6 – 21.4	ppb	0	
Dibromochloromethane (Magnolia Water System)	Average: 6.86 Range: 4.03 – 9.28	ppb	60	
Bromoform (Magnolia Water System)	Average: 0.42 Range: 0 – 1.26	Ppb	0	
Strontium (UCMR3) (Magnolia Water System)	Average: 66.2 Range: 56.3 – 78.8	ppb	Undetermined	Naturally-occurring element; historically, commercial use of strontium has been in the faceplate glass of cathode-ray tube televisions to block x-ray emissions
Chlorate (UCMR3) (Magnolia Water System)	Average: 285 Range: 190 – 397	ppb	Undetermined	Agricultural defoliant or desiccant; disinfection byproduct; and used in production of chlorine dioxide
Vanadium (UCMR3) (Magnolia Water System)	Average: 0.57 Range: 0.28 – 0.8	ppb	Undetermined	Naturally-occurring elemental metal; used as vanadium pentoxide which is a chemical intermediate and a catalyst
Chromium (UCMR3) (Magnolia Water System)	Average: 0.63 Range: 0.31 – 0.98	ppb	Undetermined	Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys; chromium-3 or -6 forms are used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood preservation
Chromium-6 (UCMR3) (Magnolia Water System)	Average: 0.36 Range: 0.074 – 0.554	ppb	Undetermined	

♦ Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels) and MCLGs (Maximum Contaminant Level Goals) have not been established for all unregulated contaminants.

VIOLATIONS – Walker Water Association			
TYPE: Bacteriological Monitoring			
Exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Total Coliform bacteria	9/1/2014	9/30/2014	Adjusted the level of disinfectant and resumed bacteriological monitoring as required by state and federal regulations
Failed to submit valid bacteriological samples	11/1/2014	11/30/2014	Resumed bacteriological monitoring as required by state and federal regulations
Failed to use a Department of Health approved sample site plan for coliform sampling	5/1/2014	5/31/2014	Resumed using the Department of Health approved sample site plan for coliform sampling
TYPE: Source Water Monitoring			
Failure to monitor source water properly	9/1/2014	9/30/2014	Resumed monitoring source for potential hazzards

SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES	
Under the new Ground Water Rule, each Water Treatment System must be surveyed (audited) by the Arkansas Department of Health and all uncorrected Significant Deficiencies must be identified, corrected and reported to the public. Walker Water Association had three Significant Deficiencies identified during their July 18, 2012 survey.	
Nature of Deficiencies	**Progress to Date**
Walker Water must comply with the minimum standards for a Cross Connection Control Program that prevents potentially contaminated non-drinking water from entering into the drinking water system.	As of this date Walker Water has responded with a plan to correct the Cross-Connection and submission of chemical report deficiencies. A solution to the tank inspection issue is still being sought.
Walker Water must periodically monitor and correct unsafe conditions in the System's storage tanks.	
Walker Water must accurately complete and submit Chemical Treatment Records.	

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